



First Nations University of Canada

tradition • innovation • leadership

This is a self-guided tour through our Regina Campus. In this tour, you'll learn about FNUniv's history, our breathtaking building, and our one-of-a-kind university programs. But first....

We are a Federated College of the University of Regina. Our students are also U of R students, and our programs are accredited University of Regina degrees.

In 1976, we started out as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) with 10 students. In 2003 we became First Nations University of Canada. Today, we have over 800 full time students, and more than 2000 U of R students take classes with us.

We specialize in Indigenous knowledge—and support Indigenous cultures, languages, and values. Our students can learn through ceremony with our Elders, in addition to their classroom experience.

We have three campuses. They are located in Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina. We also set up programs directly in Indigenous communities based on their training needs.

You do not need to be First Nations to attend the FNUniv. We welcome students of any cultural background to join us. We also welcome many mature students and students with families.

The Tour.

Start your tour in the Atrium facing the South. You will see our campus green space and the U of R campus. Right now, you're standing on land which is considered a First Nations settlement. It is in the midst of receiving reserve designation and will become part of the Starblanket First Nation. Regina is in the territory covered by Treaty #4. Feel free to step outside and view the building from the lawn.

Our Building.

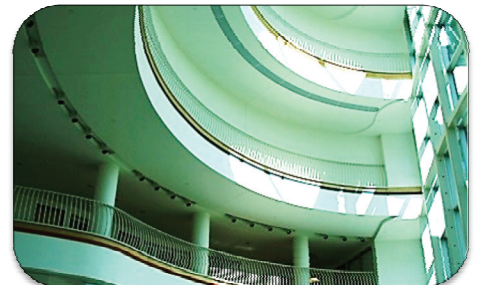
This building was designed by world-renowned Indigenous architect Douglas Cardinal. You may notice it resembles the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec—one of Cardinal's most famous buildings.



This building is a semicircle that faces south embracing the light and warmth of the sun.



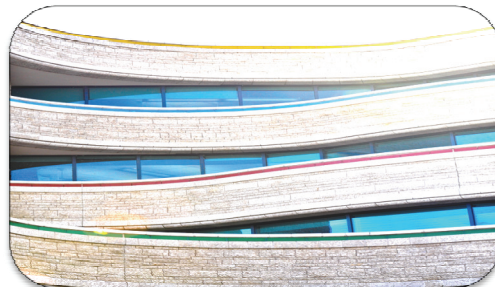
Each level of the building juts out further than the last. This maximizes sun in the winter and shade in the summer, saving energy.



Nearly every wall in this building is curved - including the stairwells. The only flat wall is that of the elevator. Curved walls mirror nature.



The entire building is covered in Tyndall stone from Flin Flon, Manitoba. This stone is 190 million years old, and, if you look closely, you can find fossils in it.



Chosen by Elders, the colour scheme represents our spirituality.

- Green - Mother Earth and natural plants
- Red - Animals and living beings
- Yellow - The Creator and Sun
- Blue - The sky



Lots of doors were included in the design to make nature (such as Regina's famous Wascana Park) just a step away.



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The Atrium.

Now, as you make your way around the Atrium in a clockwise direction, you will see that the circle is very symbolic to First Nations cultures. It represents continuation, as a circle has no end. The sun rises from the East and sets in the West, the seasons turn from spring to summer, fall and winter. Even life cycles change from newborn to youth, to adult, and then to Elder. First Nations Way, the access road around campus, is a circle, too.



The First Nations Veterans Memorial Tipi

The large glass tipi that surrounds the Atrium is not just a beautiful set of windows - it is also a memorial for First Nations Veterans who served in Canadian and U.S. militaries since World War I. The tipi was officially opened on June 6, 2008 to commemorate D-Day (June 6, 1944). The soldiers and warriors of yesterday and today sacrificed so that the next generation could grow and prosper, making FNUniv a fitting place for this grand memorial. For more information on the tipi, visit www.firstnationsveterans.ca.



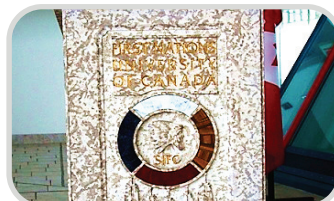
Student Success Services

FNUniv students enjoy personalized and culturally relevant support services, advising and tutoring. These services are offered at no cost.



Vision Painting

Painted by a former international student, Cristian Barreno, the painting depicts FNUniv's vision. Sacred in our culture, the white buffalo represents spiritual life and education, while the eagle carries prayers to the Creator.



Time Capsule

The stone podium is also a time capsule, sealed when the building opened in 2003. It will be opened in 2053, and its contents are a closely-guarded secret.



Art Gallery

FNUniv's Art Gallery is free and open to all. With a strong exhibit rotation, it features works of students and masters and inspires all who visit. (Pictured: Christi Belcourt's *Walking With Our Sisters*, 2013)

The Ceremonial Tipi and Cultural Education.

Eagle staffs are a form of sacred flag—Eagle feathers symbolize knowledge and honour. The more Eagle feathers, the more powerful the staff.

Each of FNUniv's 12 academic programs was designed from a First Nations perspective. Our professors and instructors – experts in Indigenous research and knowledge – use First Nations cultural approaches to education by incorporating traditional spiritual, mental, and intellectual elements into their courses.

The altar in the centre is carved from pipestone, a special type of sedimentary rock used to make sacred pipe bowls. It was carved using ancient carving techniques. Our old people have said that the altar represents the power of thousands of pipes.

The doors of the tipi are carved from a 2000-year-old Sequoia tree from California, which died over 200 years ago. It was carved by one of our Fine Arts graduates, the late John Henry Fineday from the Sweetgrass First Nation. The carvings tell the story of creation.

The centrepiece of learning at FNUniv is our Ceremonial Tipi. Elders are an important part of campus life, and they lead ceremonies and give cultural teachings in the Ceremonial Tipi. These ways of knowing are essential to protecting and revitalizing First Nations traditions and identities.

Because it is a sacred space with special protocols for entry, tour guests are asked not to enter the tipi. Photography of the inside is also not allowed.

Called smudging, sweetgrass and sage and other natural plants are burned. The smoke is symbolically used to cleanse your mind, body and spirit.

The End! We hope you enjoyed the tour. Before you leave:

- Enjoy some of the pieces from our art collection, which is valued at well over 1 million dollars.
- Go outside and take in our native prairie area or Indigenous community garden.
- Note the impressive collection of Indigenous research and knowledge in our library collections.
- Visit reception in the Student Success office for more information on our programs, or how to register.
- Visit our website at www.fnuniv.ca, or connect with us through [facebook.com/fnuniv](https://www.facebook.com/fnuniv) or Twitter [@FNUNIVCAN](https://twitter.com/FNUNIVCAN)

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

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